Choosing to participate in clinical research is an important personal decision. A clinical trial offers an opportunity to try a new therapy, but a person needs to understand and consider the benefits and risks before agreeing to be part of any study. The Mayo Clinic offers a list of questions to ask and understand the impact before participating in clinical research.

Before you agree to participate in a clinical trial, know the answers to these questions:

- Who is in charge of this study?
- Do the people running the study have a vested interest (conflict of interest) in the outcome?
- What is this study trying to find out?
- What will be expected of you?
- Is it possible that you might receive a placebo?
- What benefits or risks can you expect if you take part in this study?
- How long will the study last?
- What happens if your condition gets worse during the study?
- Can you continue seeing your own doctor during the study?
- Will you need to pay for any part of the study, including doctor visits and routine tests?
- Who pays if you're unexpectedly injured during the trial?
- How will your participation in the study affect your daily life?
- What happens at the end of the study?
- Will you be told the results of the study? When?
- Who will know that you’re participating in the study?

Link to source: http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/clinical-trials/DI00033/NSECTIONGROUP=2

Other resources
The Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation (CISCRP) is a first-of-its-kind nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and informing the public, patients, medical/research communities, the media, and policymakers about clinical research and the role each party plays in the process.

- www.ciscrp.org
- www.ciscrp.org/patient/questions.html
- www.ciscrp.org/patient/faqs.html
- www.ciscrp.org/patient/educ_materials/index.html